

"BACKCOUNTRY CACHE"

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

October 2020

Issue 16 - 2020

THE MAKING OF A BACKPACKING COMMUNITY

John Walters, Chair BPX

Why do people join CMC? Surveys find three reasons: to explore nature, pursue fitness, and make friends. Maybe this explains why 1600 members joined BPX in our first year. Backpacking takes us deeper into nature, requires better fitness than day hikes, and nothing makes friends faster than camping together in the wilderness.

Actually, 1600 BPX members only expressed an interest in backpacking. To earn your loyalty, BPX must create experiences that exceed your expectations. To that end, BPX is creating and supporting a backpacking community. A thriving community requires good leadership and excellent results.

Community means common interests, mutual respect, support, sharing, learning from each other, and giving back. Community requires commitment.

Leadership facilitates community, not only by providing memorable backpacking experiences, but also by planning trips, developing trip leaders, and creating educational and social opportunities.

Excellence requires high standards and reliable execution to give members the safe and fun rewards they seek. Excellence gives everyone the satisfaction of being part of something more than we can be alone. Excellence makes giving back a reward itself, when the community appreciates one's contributions.

Community, Leadership and Excellence are three of the five Core Values guiding every decision BPX makes. These values will make us proud to be members of a backpacking community

WIGWAM TRAIL - LOST CREEK WILDERNESS

LAST BACKPACK OF THE SEASON



Upper left - Wigwam campsite; John Walters, Leader, in foreground and Amanda Podoll

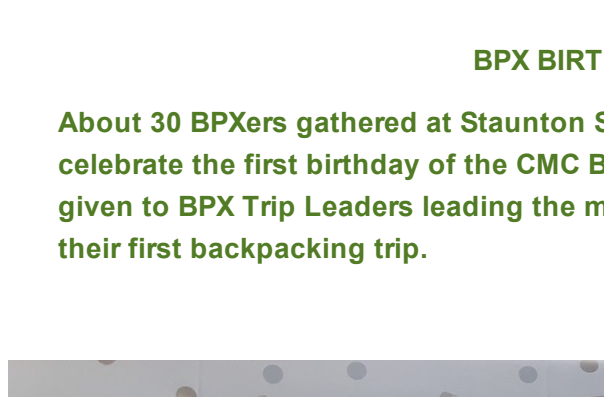
Upper right - Beaver Pond

Center - BPXers (left to right) Linda Lawson, Amanda Podoll, Brad Cotten, Bob Legrand, Annie Legrand

Lower left - Beaver Dam

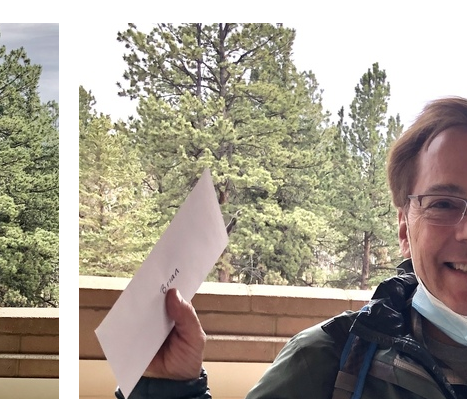
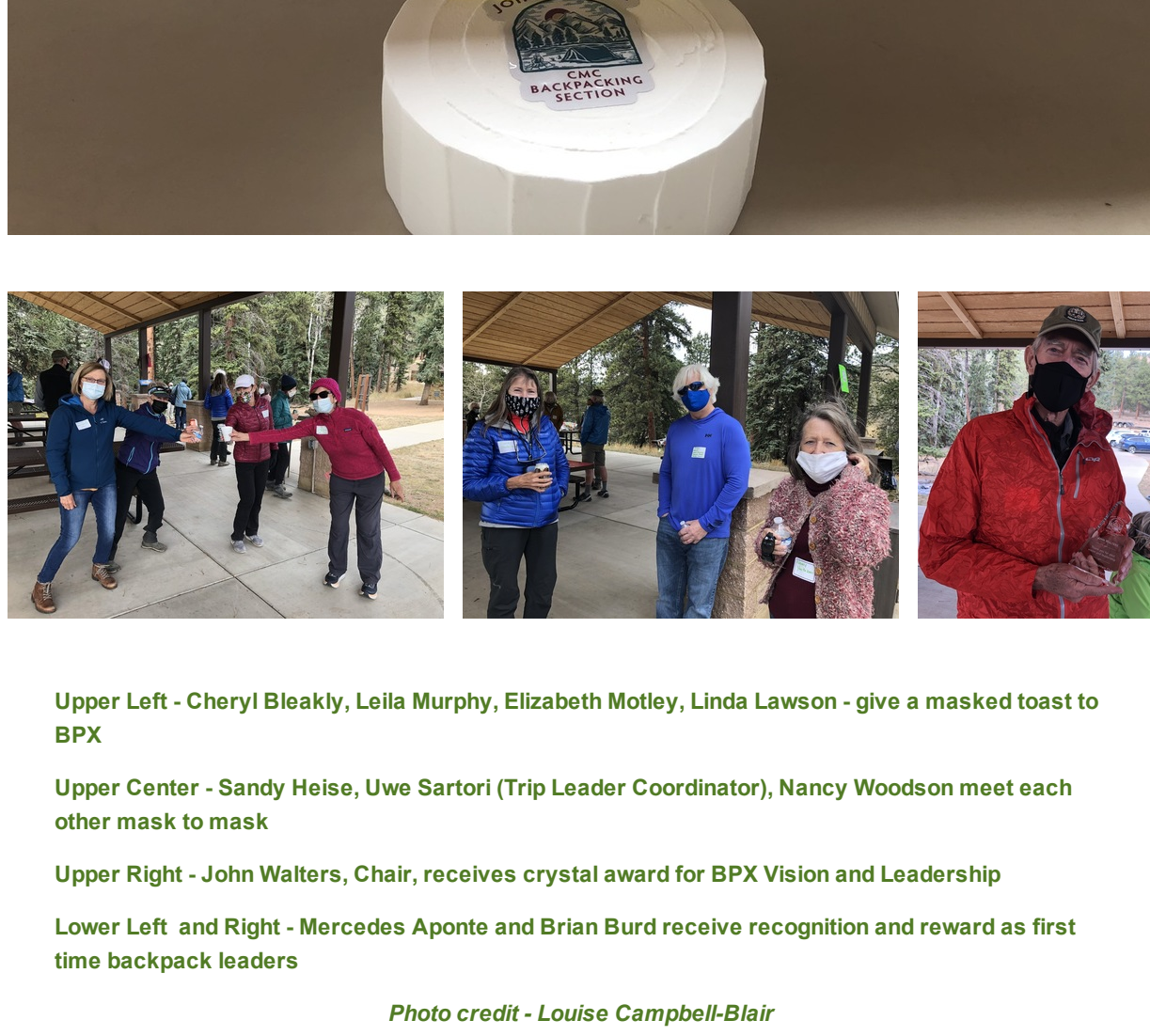
Lower Right - Great Tree 3' 9" in diameter found off the trail by Bob Legrand who has been backpacking for four decades and is a new BPX Leader

Photo credits: Annie Legrand, JC Cohen, Dan Schweissing



BPX BIRTHDAY BASH

About 30 BPXers gathered at Staunton State Park Pavilion on October 17th to celebrate the first birthday of the CMC Backpacking section. Recognition was given to BPX Trip Leaders leading the most trips and BPX Trip Leaders leading their first backpacking trip.



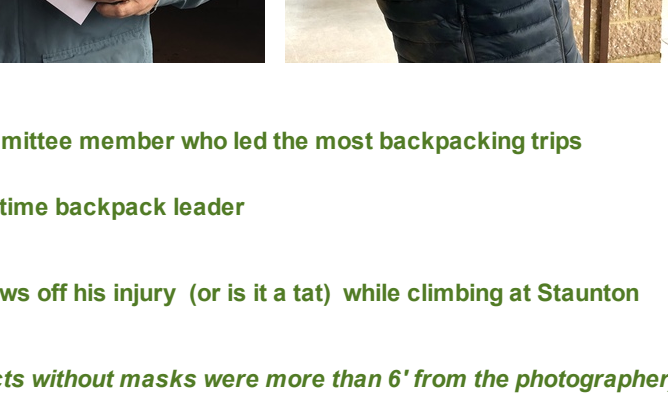
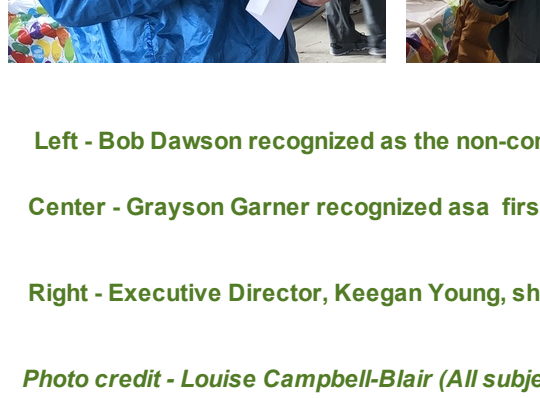
Upper Left - Cheryl Bleakly, Leila Murphy, Elizabeth Motley, Linda Lawson - give a masked toast to BPX

Upper Center - Sandy Heise, Uwe Sartori (Trip Leader Coordinator), Nancy Woodson meet each other mask to mask

Upper Right - John Walters, Chair, receives crystal award for BPX Vision and Leadership

Lower Left and Right - Mercedes Aponte and Brian Burd receive recognition and reward as first time backpack leaders

Photo credit - Louise Campbell-Blair



Left - Bob Dawson recognized as the non-committee member who led the most backpacking trips

Center - Grayson Garner recognized as a first time backpack leader

Right - Executive Director, Keegan Young, shows off his injury (or is it a tat) while climbing at Staunton

Photo credit - Louise Campbell-Blair (All subjects without masks were more than 6' from the photographer)

RECRUITING SOCIAL MEDIA GURU

Love brainstorming?

Love new ideas?

Love making a difference?

Love working from home?

You can accomplish all of your objectives by becoming a member of the BPX Social Media Team.

BPX needs members who use and understand Facebook, Twitter, Instagram messaging for marketing and communications. A team of two or three is preferable with one individual, Maggie Burns, recently recruited. YAY, Maggie!

Come join the BPX Social Media Team by contacting Linda Lawson at lk14er@comcast.net with BPX Social Media in the Subject line.

You'll be part of the BPX Community, have fun with your ideas, work with like-minded folks who believe in Adventure, Leadership, Excellence and Transparency, as well as giving back to CMC BPX.

Dear Backpackers Bob & Bobbi,

With fires and snow in Colorado I'm ready to stow my backpacking gear, but how should I treat it? I'm a first-year backpacker and don't know if I should wash my sleeping bag, hose off my tent or just leave it all in my backpack so I can pick up and go if I get an invitation to a warmer state this winter. What's the standard practice?

Backpacker Sam - *in a one BR apartment*

Hey, Sam, good questions for us. And, of course some of our responses will be dependent on the amount of space you can designate for your gear storage.

Sleeping bag: Heavy use, heavy sweat - need to wash it according to the manufacturer's directions which can usually be found on the tag inside the bag or at the manufacturer's website. Whether down bag or synthetic you will need to use a special "wash" which can be purchased at commercial recreation stores, or at some general grocery stores. Some manufacturers recommend certain types of washers, top loading or front loading, so you may need to go to a laundromat. When drying the bag, it is recommended you include tennis balls, or a balls of similar size, that aids fluffing the down or synthetic stuffing. Just tie three tennis balls in a pillow case and toss it in the dryer with the bag.

Stowing the sleeping bag: Once dry it is best to hang the bag with support such as stowing it over a shelf or large hanger in a closet. If space is a problem, then lay out the bag with only a couple of folds and store it uncompressed on a flat surface. Be certain to stow the compression sack with the bag for possible quick get away to a warmer climate.

If the bag has not been heavily used, air it out and store as alternatives described above.

Tent: Best practice is to set it up outside, when weather warms, and hose it off. Let it dry and repackage in its travel bag. If not heavily used, be certain to sweep it out, or shake out the debris and repackage. Be certain to remove any sap, dirt, mud on the tent footprint or the fly. Also, this is a good time to inspect the tent and fly for any tears or holes and repair them prior to that backpacking trip to California.

Boots: Whether you will be using the boots this winter when climbing, snow shoeing or stowing them, it is best to clean the boots with a boot brush, removing dust and rocks from the upper side and the sole. If leather boots, recondition them with a waterproof spray or gel specifically for leather. If the boot upper is Goretex go to their website for recommended water proof products.

Videos: There are a variety of YouTube videos on these subjects to aid you stowing gear till next season.

See ya' on the trails,

Bob & Bobbi Backpacker



In the 108 years since its founding, the CMC has weathered some serious storms —two world wars, Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, the Vietnam War, the Cold War. These events were separated by decades, but they had something in common: the CMC survived each of them because of our dedicated community. Now we are in a new storm - the novel Coronavirus Pandemic. And we need your help. Will you help us weather this storm?

Support CMC
<https://secure.ggiv.com/for/cmc>

Over 1500 MEMBERS have heeded our slogan

"Join the Pack"

as of October 1, 2020

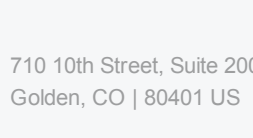
THANK YOU FOR BECOMING A BPX MEMBER

Want your great backpacking photo featured? Send it to CMCBPXNewsletter@gmail.com with your name, location and date. We will feature it in our Backcountry Cache Newsletter.

CMC connects Coloradans with more than 3,000 trips, hikes and activities annually. Members also receive huge deals on outdoor gear, lodging, events and more.

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